In regard to the recreation ground referred to, the Government offered the traveller's bungalow and its grounds to the Municipality, but I find that through a mistake the Municipality was asked to pay a rent. As I have told the Member for Mavelikara, if the land is placed at your disposal under the recent rules for the alienation of lands to Municipal Councils, Government need not demand any rent from you. If we can shift the traveller's bungalow elsewhere, we can transfer the present traveller's bungalow building and grounds to you, which you can use as a recreation ground.

In regard to the crane and shed at the landing ghaut, I shall ask the D. P. W. to put up the shed as in other landing places, but in regard to the crane it is a general question. If we provide a crane at Changanachery, then we may have to provide it in other places also. So we have to treat this as a general question and see whether the Government should do it. In regard to the improvement of the Alleppey-Changanachery canal, as I have already told another member, it is reported that it is not such a big proposition as it was originally thought to be and the matter is now engaging the attention of the Chief Engineer.

100. The health and sanitation of the town of Vaikam with special reference to the campaign against the hookworm disease.

Mr. T. A. Ganapati Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam) stated that, though the hookworm disease was prevalent now in various parts of the world, especially in tropical and sub-tropical countries, Travancore was particularly its abode, and that nearly 95 per cent. of the persons living in the town of Vaikam were infected with that disease. He pointed out that the Government of Madras had appointed an expert for investigation work and even now a special staff was working there, and that the Publicity Bureau had already issued several leaflets to warn the public of the great danger to which they were exposed by hookworm. Though from the Administration Report of 1097 it was seen that a special investigation officer was appointed in Travancore for conducting investigations into the hookworm disease also, yet it was not known whether that officer had submitted any report and whether any steps had been taken by the Government to prevent the further spread of the disease. He made the following proposals for the consideration of Government.

1. Since the worms had their origin in stagnant water, proper drainage works should be started, or the existing ones improved, so as to remove the dirt from the water all through the State.

2. The special officer should at once be directed to enquire into the matter and submit a comprehensive report stating fully the percentage of infection in Travancore with remedial measures for the same.

3. A regular campaign must be organised, vernacular leaflets must be distributed broadcast, and lectures delivered in all rural villages concerning the nature and prevention of the disease.

The Member urged that no time should be lost in finding remedies for the disease.

The Member then prayed that the canals round Vaikam might be deepened in order to carry away the water in the drainage channels which were water-logged for 8 months in the year, and that proper drainage arrangements should be made for removing the *kâdi* flowing from the Vaikam temple. He also stated that the infant mortality in the town was high and that no steps had been taken by the Government to reduce it, though a resolution passed by the Council on the subject was sent to the Government on the 9th Karkadakam, 1097.

Dewan's reply.—You say that the Vaikam Municipal Council forwarded a resolution dated the 9th Karkadakam, 1097, about infantile mortality. I have not seen that resolution. I shall look into the matter. You say that that resolution draws the attention of the Government to the high rate of infantile mortality in the town. We will have to see in the first place whether the figures

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quoted there are correct; we should then ask the Darbar Physician and the Sanitary Commissioner to investigate the cause of the abnormal infantile mortality in the Municipality and suggest remedial measures.

In regard to the hookworm disease, I do not think that it is special to Vaikam. It is known to be prevalent all over the country, and it is possible that it is more prevalent here than in other parts of the Madras Presidency. The special officer you refer to is not idle. Some of the remarks made by the members to-day would seem to leave the impression that the special officer is idle and has not been doing sufficient work. I may tell the Assembly that he is working and that his work is being watched. He began his work only less than a year ago. He spent about four months in doing investigation work in the town of Trivandrum. He also conducted investigations in the Central Jail and in the General Hospital. He then went to Padmanabhapuram, Arumanai and some other parts of South Travancore. He has completed his work there and submitted his report. He has now gone to Vandi Periyar where he has to carry on investigations in regard to malaria. It will take some time for him to study local conditions, collect statistics, conduct research and make a report if it is to be of any use. We shall have to give him some further time. He has already taught some of the medical officers of the State the more recent methods of examining the hookworm disease. When the result of this officer's investigations is known, *i. e.*, when the Darbar Physician gets enough material on which he can act, I am sure that the latter will make his recommendations and the Government will then consider them and do what is needful.

In regard to the *thodus* around Vaikam which have to be deepened, Government wrote to the Chief Engineer soon after the last session of the Assembly for estimates for the works. These are drainage channels and are required also in the interests of agriculture, as they are intended to carry away the water which stagnates in the fields. The estimates have not been received. I am reminding the Chief Engineer and he says that he will expedite their submission. The question will be considered on receipt of the estimates.

In regard to the *kâdi* flowing from the Vaikam temple, it is a Devaswom matter. The Government will address the Devaswom Commissioner to examine the matter and see what can be done.

101. Needs of the Alwaye Municipality in the matter of a bridge, an English School and a Munsiff's Court.

Mr. K. S. Raman Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Alwaye) stated that there were at present a boys' school with 7 classes and a girls' school with 4 classes departmentally conducted, in the town of Alwaye, and that, though there was no departmental English school in that locality, the public were quite satisfied with the local aided English High School and the local Second Grade College. Those institutions, however, were admitting boys only, and the inhabitants of Alwaye were being put to great difficulty in the matter of giving education in English to their girls. He requested that a complete English Middle School for girls might be started at Alwaye and if the Government were not in favour of starting such a school departmentally, he suggested that permission might be granted to the local Municipality to open a school on condition that Government would grant them a site and a building for locating the school, as also a grant equivalent to one-half of the expenditure for conducting the school. The Member also pointed out that there were two camp sheds in the town, both of which were not necessary, and that the revenue camp shed which was once used as an English Middle School could be spared for locating the proposed girls' school. Another alternative suggested by the Member was that a site might be given them free in which case the Council would put up a building to start the proposed school. He requested early orders in the matter.

The Member then prayed that a bridge might be constructed over the Alwaye river. The town of Alwaye was coming into prominence on account of its proximity to the port of Cochin and the existence of a railway station in the heart of the town. It had also a big market. The Member requested early orders as the people were put to considerable inconvenience for want of a bridge during the rainy season and

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